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DOMINICAN PERSPECTIVE

To the Editor of The Inquirer:

The unfortunate turn of events in the Dominican Republic points up the lack of long-range perspective among our thinkers in Washington. We now have another potential Cuba on our hands, but a Cuba of our own making. What would happen if our Marines withdrew? Does anyone doubt that the military junta would

be overthrown in the matter of a few days?

Now we are there indefinitely. How long will our troops remain? One week? Twenty weeks? A hundred weeks? How many of our men will it take to defend a military regime which is hated by its own people? (For details, look at South Vietnam.)

The tragedy of the affair is that the Dominican Republic once had its own elected government, under Juan Bosch. It is undeniable that Bosch was anti-Communist. That was fine. However, he also was independent. He wanted his country to develop its own resources, to run its own plants. This idea was unthinkable to the American corporations who had exploited the island for many years. In classic manner, therefore, the CIA and other American agents saw to it that Bosch was expelled and a military junta installed in his place.

The military did not solve the problem. It rarely knows how to handle the complexity of civilian problems. At any rate, civil liberties were suspended, living conditions deteriorated, and the people were driven to the point where they wished to have their former elected government restored. They had overthrown the junta when we intervened. Now the Dominican people see democracy as a power to support reaction. They have been anti-Communist. If and when they regain their freedom, will they be so in the future?

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